

*Canillas*  
Application No. 09/852,709  
Docket No. ACT 201/ Shipley 03-10

Art Unit 2874  
Examiner Michael J. Stahl

providing a first plurality and second plurality of grooves in a base structure, said first plurality of grooves being transverse to said second plurality of grooves;  
positioning a plurality of mounting structures within said base structure grooves; and  
affixing one of said first and second support structures to said mounting structures in said first plurality of grooves in said base structure.

#### REMARKS

Claims 1-18 and 20-42 are pending in the application. Applicants have canceled claim 19 by the above-amendments. Claims 29-42 have been added to recite additional aspects of Applicants' invention. The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 2, 19, and 25 and has allowed claims 5-18. The Examiner has objected to claims 3-4, 20-24, and 26-28 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated that such claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the features of the base claim and any intervening claims, and if claim 26 were suitably amended to overcome the objection to the use of the term "said rails".

Applicants have amended claim 3, 20, and 26 in the manner suggested by the Examiner. Claims 25 and 27 have been amended to depend from claim 20 rather than claim 19 which is now canceled. Claim 1 has been amended to recite additional aspects of Applicants' invention.

#### CLAIM OBJECTIONS

The Examiner has objected to claim 26, because claim 26 "refers to 'said rails' but no rails were previously mentioned in this claim or its parent claims. It appears that 'said rails' should be changed to 'said pair of fibers'." Applicants have amended claim 26 in the manner suggested by the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the claim objection.

#### REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. 102

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 2, 19, and 25 under 35 U.S.C. 102 as being anticipated by Witte (US 4,325,604 ). Applicants have canceled claim 19 rendering the rejection of claim 19 moot. Applicants have rewritten claim 3 in independent form incorporating the subject matter of claims 1 and 2 from which claim 3 depended, which the Examiner indicated would render claim 3 allowable. Applicants have rewritten claim 20 in independent form incorporating the subject matter of claim 19 from which claim 20 depended, which the Examiner indicated would

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render claim 20 allowable. Claim 25 has been amended to depend from claim 20. Since the Examiner indicated claim 20 would be allowable as amended, claim 25 is allowable for at least the reason that it depends from allowable base claim 20. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection to claim 25.

Applicants have amended claim 1 to recite the feature that the "movable optical array is movable relative to said mounting apparatus along the direction of the optical axis of a selected one of said second optical fibers." (Emphasis Added.) In contrast, Witte discloses that the direction of motion of the holder 10 is transverse to the optical axis of the fiber 103. (Fig. 1). Accordingly, Witte fails to disclose each and every element of claim 1, and Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claim 1, as well as claim 2, which depends from claim 1.

**CLAIMS OBJECTED TO**

By rewriting claims 3 and 20 into independent form in the manner suggested by the Examiner, Applicants understand claims 3 and 20 to be allowable. Claims 4, 21-24, and 26-28 which were objected to are now allowable, because such claims depend respectively from claims 3 and 20.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that the claims in this application are now in condition for allowance. Early and favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned in the event that a telephone interview will advance prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,



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ATTACHMENT

The following are the marked up copies of the claims as amended. Bracketed text has been deleted, and underlined text has been inserted.

1. (Amended Once) An optical switch assembly comprising:  
a fixed optical array;  
a movable optical array;  
a plurality of first optical fibers mounted on said fixed optical array and a plurality of  
second optical fibers mounted on said movable optical array; and  
a mounting apparatus comprising a plurality of mounting structures, wherein said fixed  
optical array is immobile relative to said mounting apparatus and said movable  
optical array is movable [along] relative to said mounting apparatus along the  
direction of the optical axis of a selected one of said second optical fibers.

3. (Amended Once) [The] An optical switch assembly [of claim 2, wherein:]  
comprising:  
a fixed optical array;  
a movable optical array;  
a plurality of first optical fibers mounted on said fixed optical array and a plurality of  
second optical fibers mounted on said movable optical array; and  
a mounting apparatus comprising a plurality of mounting structures, wherein said fixed  
optical array is immobile relative to said mounting apparatus and said movable  
optical array is movable along side mounting apparatus, and  
wherein said fixed optical array includes an upper chip mated to a lower chip, said chips  
including grooves which mate to receive said first optical fibers and cut-in portions which  
create a notch between said upper and lower chips[,] and said movable optical array includes  
an upper chip mated to a lower chip, said chips including grooves which mate to receive said  
second optical fibers and cut-in portions which create a notch between said upper and lower  
chips.

20. (Amended Once) [The method of claim 19, wherein said mounting comprises] A method for making an optical switch assembly, comprising:

positioning a plurality of first optical fibers in a first support structure and a plurality of second optical fibers in a second support structure;

mounting said first and second support structures on at least one mounting apparatus, by

positioning grooves, located on said first and second support structures, on

mounting structures located on said mounting apparatus; and

affixing one of said first and second support structures to said mounting apparatus.

25. (Amended Once) The method of claim [19] 20, wherein said mounting comprises:  
positioning a pair of fibers within cut-in portions of said first and second support structures; and

affixing one of said first and second support structures to said pair of fibers.

26. (Amended Once) The method of claim 25, wherein said first and second support structures each include upper and lower support portions, each said portion having a pair of said cut-in portions, wherein said cut-in portions of said upper support portion mate with said cut-in portions of said lower support portion to create notches for receiving said [rails] pair of fibers.

27. (Amended Once) The method of claim [19] 20, further comprising preparing said mounting apparatus, including:

providing a first plurality and second plurality of grooves in a base structure, said first plurality of grooves being transverse to said second plurality of grooves;

positioning a plurality of mounting structures within said base structure grooves; and

affixing one of said first and second support structures to said mounting structures in said first plurality of grooves in said base structure.



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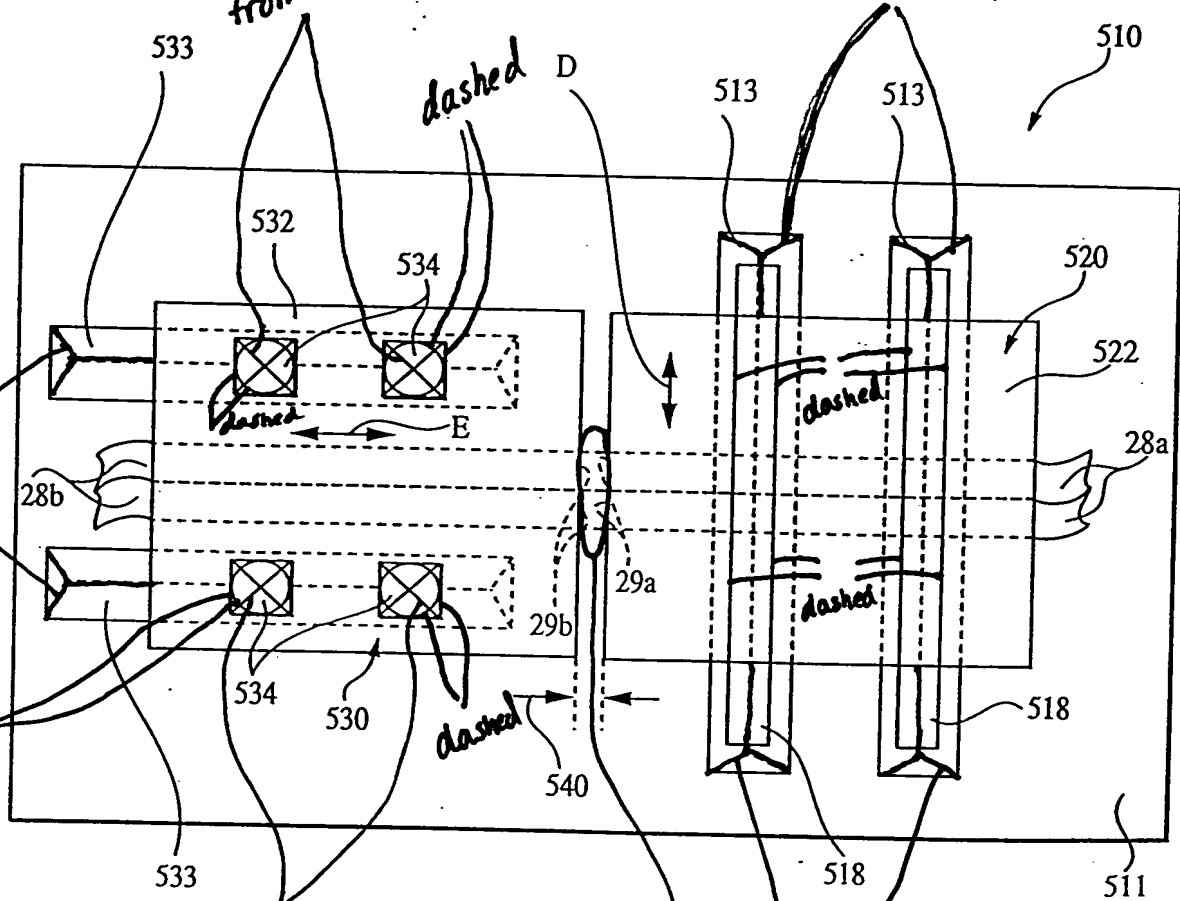


FIG. 10

delete "x's"  
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circle

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